GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:69
ANSWERED ON:01.03.2016
Use of Bio-Pesticides
Basheer Shri E. T. Mohammed;Dubey Shri Nishikant

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that several banned pesticides are being used in the production/cultivation of crops, fruits and vegetables thereby having an adverse impact on human health, livestocks and soil, if so, the details thereof and the corrective measures taken thereon;

(b) whether the Government is considering to promote the use of biopesticides under the Integrated Pest Management Approach which employs cultural, mechanical and biological methods of pest control in various States including Jharkhand and if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds provided by the Government for the production of biopesticides during the last three years and the current year, State-wise;

(d) whether the Government is considering to develop bio-pesticides by using bio-slurry which is an alternative to chemical fertilizers and pesticides; and

(e) the details of the various steps taken by the Government to promote use of biopesticides/bio-fertilizers in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
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(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 69 DUE FOR REPLY ON 1ST MARCH, 2016.

(a): Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare is implementing a program for "Monitoring of Pesticide Residues at National Level" (MPRNL) under which samples of agriculture commodities are collected and analyzed for the presence of pesticide residues. No residues of banned pesticides have been detected in commodities monitored under this program.

The Registration Committee constituted under the provisions of the Insecticides Act, 1968 registers pesticides only after establishing their safety to human, animal and environmental health. Technical reviews are carried out from time to time and continued use of pesticides is permitted only if found safe. The list of pesticides which are banned/ restricted/ withdrawn in one or more countries but continue to be registered for domestic use in India is at Annexure-I.

Further, based on the review of 6 neonicotinoid class of pesticides by an expert committee, the Government has issued directions to make appropriate amendments in the label claims and to conduct studies on bio-efficacy and toxicity. With respect to 66 other pesticides, the Committee has submitted its report in December 2015, which has been referred to the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare with the endorsement of the Registration Committee in January 2016.

(b): The Government is implementing "Strengthening and Modernization of Pest Management Approach in India" through 35 Central Integrated Pest Management Centres (CIPMCs) of Directorate of Plant Protection Quarantine and Storage established across the country with an aim to promote Integrated Pest Management
Contdâ€¦2/-

(IPM) approach . CIPMCs inter alia, produce biological agents for release in the fields, conserve natural bio-control agents, promote bio-pesticides as an alternative to chemical pesticides and advocate judicious and safe use of chemical pesticides as a last resort. These activities are implemented through Farmers Field Schools (FFSs), 2 days and 5 days training programmes and season long training program for State Agriculture Extension officers and NGOs / Private Bodies. A 'Grow Safe Food' campaign has been initiated to carry the message of safe and judicious use of pesticides to farmers and other stakeholders. A simple message related to five essential principles of judicious pesticide use - application of pesticides on the right crop, against pests for which the pesticide has been approved, at the right time, in approved doses, and as per approved method of application - is sought to be disseminated in

regional languages in Gram Panchayats and rural areas. Package of practices for control of pests and diseases in 67 crops have been revised to include techniques to reduce dependence on chemical pesticides and encourage use of bio-pesticides and other alternative plant protection measures. The requirement for registration of bio-pesticides has been simplified to facilitate introduction of bio-pesticides

(c) to (e): The Central Government provides grant-in-aid of Rs.45.00 lakhs for building and Rs.20.00 lakh for procuring equipments for Bio-control Laboratories for production of bio-control agents including bio-pesticides to State Governments. Central Government also provides Rs.20.00 lakhs as grants-in-aid to State Governments for procuring equipments for Bio-pesticides Testing Laboratories. The Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare has sanctioned an amount of Rs 506.01 Lakh in 2012-13, Rs 75 Lakh in 2013-14 and Rs 200 Lakh 2014-15, under various schemes for the development of Bio- intensive pest management. The details are at Annexure II.
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In the last five years, a total of 3,372 Nos. of Farmers Field Schools (FFSs) have been organized wherein 5,661 Agriculture Extension Officers (AEOs) and 99,940 farmers on different crops have been trained on latest IPM technology in various crops, 9,296 million of bio-control agents have been released in the States for control of different pests and diseases. A total of 526 Two days HRD programme and 62 Five days HRD programme were organized through which 17, 870 farmers and 2,480 AEOs/ Pesticides Dealers/ NGOs/ Progressive Farmers were trained and sensitized to reduce the use of chemical pesticides by encouraging the use of good agricultural practices. The details are at Annexure III